

Response to Office Action Dated July 6, 2005
October 6, 2005
A-1583CON
Page 4

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in monitoring spaces affording restricted access, comprising:

an access panel including a door and a frame peripherally surrounding said door, said door being attached to said frame; and

a cage attached to said access panel frame, said cage having a plurality of openings for ensuring fluid communication between an interior portion of the cage and a surrounding space.

2. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said cage comprises expanded metal.

3. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, and further comprising an environmental sensing device secured to said cage.

4. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said sensing device comprises a smoke detector.

5. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said sensing device comprises a heat sensor.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said cage is welded to the frame of said access panel.

7. (Canceled)

Response to Office Action Dated July 6, 2005
October 6, 2005
A-1583CON
Page 5

8. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a shelf disposed in the interior portion of said cage.

9. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said shelf is comprised of metal.

10. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said shelf is comprised of expanded metal, and is welded to said cage.

11. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 8, and further comprising at least one environmental sensing device disposed on said shelf.

12. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the at least one environmental sensing device is attached to an underneath surface of said shelf.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring environmental conditions in a space affording restricted access, comprising:

placing an access enclosure through an opening in a wall adjacent to said space, the access enclosure comprising an access panel including a door and a cage attached to said access panel, said cage having a plurality of openings for ensuring fluid communication between an interior portion of the cage and ~~a surrounding~~ said space affording restricted access, said cage being disposed in said space so that said space surrounds said cage;

disposing an environmental sensing device, for sensing environmental conditions in said space surrounding said cage, within said interior portion of the cage; and opening said door to inspect or test said environmental sensing device.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the step of disposing the environmental sensing device within the interior portion of the cage includes a further step of securing the environmental sensing device to a shelf within said interior portion.

Response to Office Action Dated July 6, 2005
October 6, 2005
A-1583CON
Page 6

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of securing the environmental sensing device to said shelf includes a step of attaching the environmental sensing device to an underneath surface of the shelf.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein said space comprises an elevator hoistway.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 13, comprising the further step of maintaining normal operations in said restricted space affording restricted access while the inspecting step is performed.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein said ~~restricted space~~ affording restricted access comprises an elevator hoistway, and said normal operations comprise continued operation of an elevator disposed within said elevator hoistway.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring environmental conditions in a space affording restricted access, without entering said space, comprising:

opening a door in an access enclosure from a second space adjacent to said restricted access space, said space affording restricted access and said second space being separated by a fire-rated wall through which said access enclosure extends; and
inspecting or testing an environmental sensing device disposed in said access enclosure, wherein said environmental sensing device is in direct fluid flow contact with said space affording restricted access, for sensing environmental conditions in said space.

20. (Original) The method as recited in claim 19, comprising the further step of maintaining normal operations in said restricted space while the inspecting step is performed.

Response to Office Action Dated July 6, 2005
October 6, 2005
A-1583CON
Page 7

21. (New) The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said cage comprises side and rear walls and each of said walls include some of said plurality of openings.

22. (New) The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said access panel is fire protection rated.